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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST-NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/883,634	06/18/2001	Jeff Williams	120222.00001	2497

7590 05/15/2003

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EXAMINER	
DRODGE, JOSEPH W	
ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
1723	

DATE MAILED: 05/15/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

HG

Office Action Summary

Application No.	Applicant(s)
09/883,634	WILLIAMS
Examiner	**Art Unit**
JOSEPH DRODGE	1723

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136 (a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on _____.

2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.

3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-15 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above, claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-15 is/are rejected.

7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8) ☐ Claims _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.

If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.

12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

13) ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of:

1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

*See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

14) ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).

a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.

15) ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s). _____
4) ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). 36
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) ☐ Other:

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

> A person shall be entitled to a patent unless -
>
> (b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.
> (e) the invention was described in-
> (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effect under this subsection of a national application published under section 122(b) only if the international application designating the United States was published under Article 21(2)(a) of such treaty in the English language; or
> (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that a patent shall not be deemed filed in the United States for the purposes of this subsection based on the filing of an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a).

2. Claims 1 and 2 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Yamamoto patent 6,297,587. Yamamoto discloses operating a cleaning device 12 by applying suction/vacuum to liquid passing through suction lines 30 and 31 to a pump while also passing liquid through drain line 16 to cleaning solution device 20 (see in particular column 2, lines 47-57).

Regarding claim 2, see also suck-out tube (column 3, lines 23-35).

3. Claims 1, 4, 5, 9, 0 and 11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Nichols patent 3,630,369.

Nichols discloses operating of mob bucket cleaning device 12 and operating a pump to apply suction/vacuum to liquid flowing through pump intake line 46, while liquid is routed via

conduits 49 and 62 [claim 1], the liquid also being routed through cleaning station/filter 50/52 as per claims 4, 10 and 11.

Regarding claims 5 and 9, see actuation of electric motor of the pump in column 12, line 39.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. The factual inquiries set forth in *Graham v. John Deere Co.*, 383 U.S. 1, 148 USPQ 459 (1966), that are applied for establishing a background for determining obviousness under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) are summarized as follows:

1. Determining the scope and contents of the prior art.
2. Ascertaining the differences between the prior art and the claims at issue.
3. Resolving the level of ordinary skill in the pertinent art.
4. Considering objective evidence present in the application indicating obviousness or nonobviousness.

6. Claims 2, 3, 6-8, 12, 13 and 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nichols in view of Biggs patent 6,279,195.

These latter claims all differ in requiring there being an additional function of operating the mob bucket cleaning station, generally comprising disposing or draining or related refilling operation for the mop bucket. Biggs teaches such mop bucket periodic draining/disposing in column 4, lines 66-67. At the time the present invention was made, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in this art to have augmented the Nichols method by implementing such functions of draining/disposing followed by refilling , as suggested by Biggs, so as to utilize clean replacement water for the mop bucket, filtering inherently not removing certain types of contamination that inevitably collects.

Regarding claims 3, 13, and 15, also see re-filling of the bucket suggested in column 3, line 67 through column 4, line 1.

Regarding claim 12, see addition of cleaning chemical in Biggs column 5, line 2.

7. Claim 14 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nichols in view of Kweon patent 5,424,939.

Claim 14 differs in requiring starting and stopping of mop bucket operation in response to detection of a liquid somewhere. However, Kweon teaches such initiation being responsive firstly to detection of levels of detected soil contamination followed by detection of a level of water being adsorbed by a cleaning device (column 3, line 62 through column 4, line 21). At the time the present invention was made, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in this art to have augmented the Nichols method and system by use of such level detectors and more complete

soil removal procedure, as taught by Kweon, to assure that mop bucket water have no more than a limited amount of soil contamination so as to be effective for floor cleaning use.

8. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Joseph W. Drodge whose telephone number is (703) 872-9310 or (703) 872-9311 for after final submissions. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from approximately 8:30 AM - 4:45 PM.

The fax phone number for this Group is (703) 305-3599. When filing a FAX in Tech Center 1700, please indicate in the Header (upper right) "Official" for papers that are to be entered into the file, and "Unofficial" for draft documents and other communication with the PTO that are not for entry into the file of the application. This will expedite processing of your papers.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0661.

Joseph W. Drodge
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 1723

JWD
May 12, 2003